



KING COUNTY  
Healthcare  
Coalition

Prepare. Respond. Recover.

## Healthcare Coalition Executive Council

Meeting Minutes – June 4, 2007  
Talaris Conference Center, Seattle

### **Council Members Present:**

Pamela Piering, Aging and Disability Services; Jeff Sconyers, Children's Hospital & Medical Center; Patty Mulhern, Visiting Nurse Services of the Northwest; Dr. David Grossman, Group Health Cooperative; Gayle Ward, Northwest Hospital; Jean Robertson, Mental Health Chemical Abuse and Dependency Services Division of King County

### **Council Members Not Present:**

Dianna Reely, Overlake Hospital Medical Center; Paul Hayes, Valley Medical Center; Johnese Spisso, Harborview Medical Center; Cal Knight, Swedish Medical Center; Peter McGough, University of Washington Physicians Network; Anita Geving, The Polyclinic; Tom Trompeter, Community Health Centers of King County

### **Also Present:**

Dorothy Teeter, Public Health - Seattle & King County, Chris Martin, Harborview Medical Center, Peter Rigby, Northwest Hospital & Medical Center, Michael Loehr, Public Health – Seattle & King County; Fred Savaglio, Virginia Mason Medical Center

### **Staff Present:**

Joe Cropley, Washington Poison Center, Richard Marks, Consultant, Cynthia Dold, Public Health - Seattle & King County; Dr. Lewis Robinson, Public Health - Seattle & King County, Dr. Kay Koelemay, Public Health – Seattle & King County; Lydia Ortega, Public Health - Seattle & King County

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### **Introductions**

Dr. David Grossman, Vice Chair of the Council, opened the meeting at 11:03am and introduced a motion to approve the minutes from the March 7, 2007 Executive Council Meeting.

**ACTION: The 3-7-07 Executive Council Minutes were unanimously approved by the Executive Council members in attendance.**

### **Labor Representation**

Richard Marks presented a proposal to authorize the Chair of the Executive Council to extend an invitation to major labor unions representing healthcare workers in King County to join the Coalition as partner organizations. Labor union representatives would be invited to participate in Coalition meetings and serve on Coalition committees and work groups.

**ACTION: The Council approved a motion to invite a limited number of labor organizations to participate as partners in the Healthcare Coalition.**

**Follow-up: Richard Marks, Cynthia Dold and Johnese Spisso will identify 3-4 major labor unions that represent a significant number of healthcare workers within King County. As chair of the Coalition, Johnese Spisso will extend an invitation to these unions to participate as Partner organizations in the Healthcare Coalition.**

### **Healthcare Coalition Budget 2007**

The majority of Coalition funding for the 2007 cycle has come from federal sources. King County funds approximately 1/3 of the total. Funding from the County is expected to decrease significantly in 2008 and federal funding sources may be reduced as well. In the future, the Coalition will need to receive some financial support from member and partner organizations. The budget strategy for 2008 will require setting priorities for staff work, seeking membership support, and identifying new funding sources.

**Follow-up: Richard Marks and Cynthia Dold will develop a 2008 budget proposal for Executive Council review at the September meeting.**

### **Emergency Department Saturation**

Dr. Lewis Robinson provided a high-level review of the King County Emergency Department overcrowding problem. Dr. Robinson explained that the EMS & Trauma Council is addressing the problem, but has been primarily focusing on issues relating to ambulance movement. Most communities that have addressed similar problems have successfully used a multi-dimensional approach, which considers ED input, through-put, and output.

**ACTION: The Council approved the following recommendations:**

- **Support the EMS Trauma Council in addressing inpatient processes in addition to ambulance movement**
- **Support the EMS Trauma Council in collecting additional data to quantify the ED overcrowding situation and to provide quarterly updates to leadership**
- **Gain support from hospital executives for making operational changes at each facility to reduce ED saturation**
- **Send a letter from the Executive Council to hospital CEOs encouraging executive-level support for addressing the ED saturation problem.**

**Follow-Up: Richard Marks, Cynthia Dold and Dr. Lewis Robinson will work with the Executive Council officers to draft a letter to hospital CEO's requesting further support for the ED Saturation work. In addition, Dr. Robinson and Chris Martin will work with the EMS and Trauma Council to identify additional data points for tracking and to develop a quarterly update for hospital leaders on the status of the ED overcrowding problem.**

### **Healthcare Worker Survey**

Dr. Kathryn Koelemay presented a survey tool to assess employee willingness to report to work in a catastrophic emergency. The Executive Council discussed the value of performing a regional survey of hospitals and other healthcare organizations. Council members agreed that a healthcare worker survey could provide valuable information to employers and would present an excellent opportunity to raise awareness among healthcare workers of local preparedness efforts.

**ACTION: The Council approved pursuing a partnership with the Northwest Center for Public Health Practice (NWCPHP) to further develop the healthcare worker survey and to conduct the survey on a regional basis.**

**Follow-up: Dr. Koelemay and Cynthia Dold will work with the NWCPHP to assess their level of interest in designing and implementing a regional survey. In addition, staff will develop strategies to support individual facility use of the survey.**

### **Alternate Care Facilities**

Dr. Lewis Rubinson presented the medical surge strategy for developing Alternate Care Facilities. Current plans are to develop 3 large ACFs to serve Seattle, the Eastside and south King County. Hospitals and other medical organizations will be asked to contribute staffing to the alternate care facilities. However during a flu pandemic, it is projected that 40% of the healthcare workforce may not report to work, which will make it difficult to staff the ACFs. Dr. Rubinson and others are working to develop staffing models that address this issue. The ACFs will be designed with the capability to accommodate non-complex inpatient care and various outpatient services, including urgent care, mass vaccinations, and anti-viral drug distribution.

**ACTION: The Council approved the current King County Alternate Care Facilities conceptual framework. Follow-up: Dr. Rubinson will present a staffing model and funding proposal for Alternate Care Facilities at the September meeting.**

### **West Nile Virus Preparation**

Dorothy Teeter, Chief of Health Operations for Seattle & King County Public Health, briefed the Council on the potential for West Nile Virus in humans in Washington this season. Public Health is doing the following to address the potential threat:

- Intensify outreach and education to all populations with a special focus on elderly, homeless and limited English proficient individuals
- Inform the medical community about the virus and the potential threat to human health
- Prepare to activate a robust media campaign and public information call center
- Coordinate with and provide training and technical assistance to cities, county departments and private landowners on plans to conduct mosquito surveillance, habitat reduction, and larviciding

There will be an article in the Region 6 June Healthcare Preparedness Newsletter on West Nile Virus planning and key messages as an FYI.

### **Other Issues**

#### **Public Health – Healthcare Facility Communication and Coordination Meetings**

The Seattle and King County Public Health Department wants to improve its communication with hospitals and large medical groups in the county. Representatives from Public Health and the Healthcare Coalition are scheduling visits with each hospital to discuss surveillance issues, effective communication styles, and the Information and Alert Network (IAN).

### **Adjournment**

Dr. David Grossman adjourned the meeting at 1:00pm.

**Future Meeting Dates:** September 14, 2007 8.30 – 10.30 am  
November 29, 2007 2.00 – 4.00 pm (**All Executive Meeting**)